

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09005 181853Z

41

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0896

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 09005

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: LOPEZ STATE VISIT; AID PHASE-OUT ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: STATE 221102

1. ANNOUNCEMENT RE PHASE-OUT PER REFTEL (PARA 2) SEEMS SATISFACTORY WITH ONE EXCEPTION. WE OBJECT TO THE THIRD SENTENCE AND WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE LAST TWO SENTENCES THAT PARAGRAPH BE CHANGED TO READ: QUOTE IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT, AS COLOMBIA HAS BECOME LESS DEPENDENT ON CON-
CESSIONAL EXTERNAL FINANCING, THE AID BILATERAL PROGRAM COULD BE BROUGHT TO AN ORDERLY PHASE-OUT, AND THAT APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD WORK OUT A PLAN FOR SUCH AN ORDERLY TERMINATION OF AID ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE.

2. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RESPLNSIBILITY FOR THE PHASE-OUT DECISION SHOULD BE PUBLICLY ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO LOPEZ. NOR AM I SURE THAT THE GOC WOULD AGREE TO THAT PHRASING. THE POINT LOPEZ AND BOTERO HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE IS THAT THIS SHOULD BE A DECISION TAKEN JOINTLY AND ANNOUNCED AS SUCH.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW IF COLOMBIANS WILL WISH TO SUGGEST ANY DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL WORDING, BUT THEY MAY WELL WISH TO INCLUDE SOME FACTUAL MATERIAL (OR HAVE IT ISSUED SEPARATELY) DEMONSTRATING COLOMBIA'S "GRADUATION".
VAKY

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